

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 144691

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR LY US

SUBJECT: U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS: CONVERSATIONS WITH NEW
LIBYAN CHARGE

1. DEPTOFFS AND EAGLETON HAD SERIES OF CONVERSATIONS ON
U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS WITH NEWLY ARRIVED LIBYAN CHARGE
MADFAI. WE AGAIN DISCUSSED LIBYAN TIES TO TERRORISTS,
ACTIVE OPPOSITION TO OUR MIDEAST PEACE EFFORTS, AND
LIBYA'S GENERALLY DISRUPTIVE POLICIES IN AFRICA AND MIDDLE
EAST. THERE WERE NO SIGNIFICANT NEW ELEMENTS IN THESE
EXCHANGES, BUT MADFAI REVEALED A DETERMINATION TO DEAL WITH
THESE ISSUES FORTHRIGHTLY. HE IS TO RETURN TO TRIPOLI FOR
CONSULTATIONS SHORTLY AND WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT A DETAILED,
SPECIFIC PAPER ON OUR DIFFERENCES IN AN EFFORT TO CLARIFY
OUR PROBLEMS AND LAY BASIS FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS.
TO HIS ADDITIONAL SUGGESTION THAT WE CONCENTRATE ON AREAS
WHERE THERE IS NO SERIOUS DISAGREEMENT PENDING RESOLUTION
OR AMELEORATION OF OUR DIFFICULTIES, WE AGREED, BUT POINTED
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OUT THAT OUR SERIOUS PROBLEMS WILL SEVERELY CIRCUMSCRIBE
COOPERATION IN SOME AREAS.

2. TERRORISM: IN ADDITION TO USUAL EXCHANGE AND IN
RESPONSE MADFAI'S REPEATED REQUESTS FOR SPECIFICS, WE CITED
AS EXAMPLES OF OUR CONCERN THE 1975 INCIDENT IN WHICH A JRA
GROUP ATTACKED OUR EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR, FOUND REFUGE

IN LIBYA, AND SUBSEQUENTLY WAS APPREHENDED IN JORDAN--
(OUR REQUESTS FOR THE RETURN OF USG PROPERTY AND INFORMATION ON LIBYA'S POSITION REGARDING PROSECUTION OR EXTRADITION OF THESE JRA HIJACKERS WENT UNANSWERED.) ALSO, THE OBVIOUS SUPPORT BY LIBYA OF AHMAD GHAFUR FOR SUCH TERRORIST INCIDENTS AS THE FIRE-BOMBING OF A PAN AMERICAN AIRCRAFT IN ROME IN 1973 HAD MADE USG MOST APPREHENSIVE OVER THREAT TO WELFARE U.S. CITIZENS FROM LIBYAN SUPPORTED TERRORISM. GOL PRACTICES HAVE, IN PAST, CONTRASTED SHARPLY WITH ITS PUBLIC DISCLAIMERS. WE ALSO TOLD MADFAI THAT USG HAD NOTED THAT GOL HAD REFUSED TO PERMIT HIJACKED AIRCRAFT TO LAND IN LIBYA ON THREE RECENT OCCASIONS, AND THAT OUR INFORMATION INDICATED THAT LIBYA HAD NOT RECENTLY BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTION OR PLANNING OF ANY SPECIFIC TERRORIST INCIDENTS. WE HOPED THIS MIGHT INDICATE THAT LIBYA HAS MODIFIED ITS POLICIES OF SUPPORT FOR TERRORISTS.

3. MIDEAST PEACE: MADFAI CLAIMS THAT LIBYA ALSO HOPES FOR PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH JUSTICE FOR PALESTINIANS, AND THAT LIBYA'S POLICIES IN THIS REGARD "WILL NOT BE MORE PALESTINIAN THAN THAT OF THE PALESTINIANS". HE COMPLAINS THAT WE HAVE NOT SHARED OUR VIEWS ON MIDEAST ISSUES WITH LIBYA AND IT QUITE POSSIBLE THAT, EVEN THOUGH IT UNLIKELY WE WOULD FIND MANY SIGNIFICANT AREAS OF AGREEMENT, OUR POSITIONS ON M.E. SETTLEMENT NOT COMPLETELY AT ODDS.
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MADFAI WAS TOLD THAT USG IS INTERESTED IN HEARING GOL VIEWS ON MIDDLE EAST, AND THAT WE DO NOT EXPECT LIBYA TO AGREE WITH ALL OUR POLICIES, BUT WE WERE CONCERNED OVER LIBYAN ACTIVE OPPOSITION AND UNDERMINING OF OUR EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

4. MADFAI OBSERVED THAT PERHAPS EGYPTIANS WERE AT LEAST IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR POOR STATE OF U.S.-LIBYAN RELATIONS. HE CLAIMS TO BE WORKING AGAINST THOSE IN LIBYAN GOVERNMENT WHO WISH TO "BREAK OFF" WITH U.S., BUT SAYS HE WILL NEED TO HOLD OUT SOME HOPE FOR PROGRESS IF HE IS TO BE AT ALL PERSUASIVE IN TRIPOLI. VANCE

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